

Where Does Lead Come From?

Lead is a metal that hurts the brain, kidneys and nervous system of children. Lead poisoning is caused by too much lead in the body. Most children get lead poisoning from paint in older homes. Lead does not only come from paint. Children can get lead poisoning from other places.



Glazed pottery

Lead is in Handmade Pots and Dishes

- Glazed pottery, like beanpots
- Metal pots with lead solder (samovars)



Mexican candy

Lead is in many Workplaces

Workplaces where lead is found include:

- Construction work
- Auto repair and work with batteries
- Plumbing
- Places where people do welding or soldering

Lead is in Products from Other Countries

- Imported candy, especially candy from Mexico
- Make-up
- Imported cans of food
- Toy jewelry
- Home remedies (see other side)



Toy jewelry

Lead is in the Environment

- Leaded gasoline in other countries
- Dirt
- Plumbing pipes and water

Lead is in some Crafts and Sports

- Stained-glass making
- Bullets
- Fishing sinkers

Home Remedies That Contain Lead

These products often have lead in them. Even small amounts of lead can harm children. Be aware of these lead dangers.

Mexican and/or Central American Communities

Azarcon A bright orange powder used for treating stomach aches, or “empacho”. Also called Rueda, Corol, Alarcon, Maria Luisa or Ligo.

Greta A yellow powder used to cure stomach aches in Mexico.



Asian Indian and/or Middle Eastern Communities

Ghasard A brown powder used for stomach aches.

Bala Goli A round, flat black bean dissolved in “gripe water” used for stomach aches.

Kandu A red powder used for stomach aches.

Kohl A powder used for eye make-up, teething and skin infections. Also called Alkohl or Hashmi Surma.

Asian Communities

Paylooah A red powder used for rash or fever in Vietnam.

Ba-Baw-San An herbal medicine used to treat colic pain or to pacify young children in China.

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP)

Call for free: 1-800-532-9571

On the web: www.mass.gov/dph/clppp

Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Center for Environmental Health